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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : William W. Wells
Deputy Director for Operations

VIA : Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Recommended Procedures for Reporting
Covert Action Programs to the Senate
Select Committee on Intelligence

1. Following your briefing of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) on 29 July 1976 on current CA programs, I met with Bill Miller of the SSCI staff to work out procedures for regular reporting to the Committee on such activities. A Memorandum for the Record covering that discussion is attached. Subsequent meetings with the Committee staff have further refined these procedures, and have pointed up a few areas of potential difficulty of which I think you should be aware. I am recommending below, for your approval, suggested guidelines for keeping the SSCI informed on CA programs.

2. The SSCI staff has singled out three categories of reporting on CA programs beyond the "notification" provisions of the Hughes-Ryan Amendment: reports on the outcome of major CA programs, generally to be made shortly after their termination; semi-annual status reports on all CA programs; and supplementary details on the major projects mentioned in your 29 July briefing.

3. I recommend we adopt the following procedures for satisfying these SSCI requests for further information:

a. Termination/Evaluation Reports: We should offer oral reporting on each major program, similar to and shortly following our written after-action reporting to OAG.

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b. Semi-Annual Status Reports: The SSCI understands that we will be reporting twice a year to the NSC and has keyed its request to this timetable, however, the

staff understands that we will not be providing "drop copies" of such reports. I recommend that we initiate written status reports to the SSCI in late October, after our first report to the NSC and based upon it, but with the subject matter limited to CA activities, including general and statistical reporting on CA operations covered in the omnibus Presidential findings.

c. Follow-up Reporting on Current CA Projects:
I recommend we offer oral follow-up reporting to include key substantive elements of our presentations to OAG on major programs. The Committee staff has specifically asked that, among other additional details, we include a statement as to the origin of each proposal (e.g., foreign government, Department of State, Ambassador, internal CIA, etc.). I recommend that we decline to provide such information on grounds that it is part of the internal Executive branch decision-making process. Otherwise, I see no particular difficulty in meeting requests for briefings which provide somewhat more detail than the notifications which we have made to the SSCI and other Committees in the past.

William W. Wells

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